

How the State of Delaware is Responding

Actions Taken in State Government

Last Updated: May 1, 2020 at 5 PM

Working	Stay-at-Home Order
Housing, Rent, Utilities	Schools
Voting	Delaware Income Taxes
Motor Vehicles	Price Gouging
State Employees	

Working

- Non-essential workers must stay at home.
- Non-essential businesses are closed. Restaurants and bars are open for takeout only. [Refer to the list of non-essential and essential businesses on this page.](#)
- Child care facilities are open only for essential-workers as of April 6, 2020. [Read more on the child care page.](#)

- Out-of-state residents who are essential workers, can travel to Delaware. Otherwise, out-of-state residents must immediately self-quarantine for 14-days. [Read frequently asked questions about the out-of-state travel order.](#)

Health Care Workers from Other States or Those Retired

[Under the order from DEMA and DPH:](#)

- Nurses, doctors, mental health care providers, pharmacists and other health care professionals who have active licenses or certificates of good standing in any U.S. jurisdiction are authorized to provide in-person health care services in Delaware throughout the emergency, as well as telemedicine services.
- Delaware health care professionals whose licenses expired in the last five years are authorized to provide health care services in Delaware, assuming their licenses were in good standing for the five-year period.
- Delaware health care workers who live out of state are exempt from Governor Carney's 14-day quarantine order for out-of-state visitors.
- If you are able and willing to work, please fill out [this form](#).

Unemployment Insurance Expanded

- Workers will be eligible to receive unemployment benefits if an employer needs to curtail or shut down operations temporarily because of the Governor's State of Emergency declaration or the coronavirus outbreak.
- A worker who has been ordered by a medical doctor to self-quarantine as a result, or due to risk of exposure to coronavirus COVID-19 will be eligible to receive unemployment benefits.

- Parents or guardians who have been forced to quit or take unpaid leave from their jobs to care for children due to the Governor's emergency closure of schools will be eligible for benefits.
- Workers who have been forced to quit or take unpaid leave to care for a loved one who has contracted coronavirus COVID-19 will be eligible for benefits.
- If a worker falls ill to COVID-19 and is unable to work, they may be eligible for unemployment benefits.
- Part-time workers may be eligible for benefits.
- The definition of weekly work search requirements will expand to include a wide variety of activities that meet the requirement, unemployment insurance deadlines may be modified for mandatory appointments, and applying for training programs or mandatory re-employment service appointments and workshops.

[Read Frequently Asked Questions About Unemployment](#)

Although Department of Labor (DOL) offices will be closed to public access during this State of Emergency, the DOL remains operational and offers the ability for Delawareans to file for unemployment benefits online at: <https://ui.delawareworks.com/>. Questions can answered via email: uiclaims@delaware.gov or phone: [302-761-8446](tel:302-761-8446).

Hospitality Workers

Governor Carney approved the following changes to Delaware's unemployment benefits program for the hospitality industry:

1. The Department of Labor (DOL) will begin processing unemployment claims as they are received with the goal of benefits becoming available within a week.
2. DOL will allow part-time income while collecting benefits as long as employees can demonstrate their decreased hours and earnings.
3. DOL will not classify tipped employees as minimum wage

earners as long as their tips are reported as wages.

Hospitality Businesses

The Division of Small Business launched the [Hospitality Emergency Loan Program \(HELP\)](#) to help thousands of the businesses in Delaware hardest hit by the economic impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19),

- Apply for a no-interest loan up to \$10,000** per business per month to cover immediate, unavoidable expenses over the next few months.
- The business must have been in operation for at least a year, have annual revenue below \$15 million and be in certain industries (link to https://business.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/118/2020/04/HELP-Eligibility-Requirements_UPDATED.pdf).
- The loans carry a 10-year term with payments deferred for 9 months.
- They can be used for a wide range of expenses, other than payroll costs.
- The loans can cover rent, utilities and other unavoidable bills but cannot be used for personnel costs. The loans have a 10-year term with payments deferred for nine months.

[Visit the Division of Small Business for more information and to learn if you qualify.](#) Email business@delaware.gov with additional questions.

**Up to \$50,000 in specific cases

Stay-at-Home Order

To help reduce the curve of coronavirus, stay at home whenever possible. If you do go out for an approved activity (things

like going to the grocery store, pharmacy, picking up take out, or if you are an essential worker), be sure to maintain at least 6 feet of space between yourself and other people.

Going Outside

Delaware beaches are closed, except for exercising or walking your dog, while maintaining at least 6 feet of space between other people.

Delaware State Parks are open but playgrounds and campgrounds are closed. Enjoy the biking and hiking trails while maintaining at least 6 feet of space between yourself and other people. Face coverings are required if you cannot maintain 6 feet distance between yourself and other people.

Museums

Museums are closed [per the business closure order](#).

[Read the Frequently Asked Questions about the Stay At Home Order.](#)

Housing, Rent, Utilities

Governor Carney's [sixth modification to his State of Emergency declaration](#):

- Prevents landlords from evicting Delawareans from their homes during this crisis.
- Prevents landlords from charging late fees or interest during the State of Emergency.
- Prevents lenders from commencing foreclosures during this period. Residential mortgage foreclosures that began prior to Governor Carney's State of Emergency declaration will not move forward until the 31st day

following the termination of the Governor's emergency declaration, at the earliest.

- Prevents residential utility service companies from terminating service or charging fees for late payments for services.

[Find tips on personal finance from the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce.](#)

Schools

[Public schools are closed thru the end of the academic year.](#)
Read more on the [schools page](#).

Voting

As part of the [fifteenth modification](#) to the State of Emergency, Delaware's presidential primary has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, July 7, 2020**. The Delaware Department of Elections will mail absentee ballot applications to all registered Democrats and Republicans in the State of Delaware, providing all eligible registered Delaware voters the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot in the presidential primary election.

Eligible Delaware voters will be permitted to select the "sick" or "temporarily or permanently physically disabled" options on their absentee ballot application to cast a vote in the presidential primary election, even if they are not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. **Voters must return the application to the Delaware Department of Elections or complete the process [online](#) to receive an absentee ballot.**

The Delaware Department of Elections will operate at least six polling places in each county to allow voters to cast ballots in person should they choose not to vote by absentee ballot.

The voter registration deadline for the 2020 Presidential Primary Election is Saturday, June 13, 2020.

Delaware Income Taxes

Delaware extended the Personal Income Tax Return Filing Deadline to **July 15, 2020**. [Read the press release.](#)

Motor Vehicles

Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is now By Appointment Only until further notice. [Many services are available online](#). **DMV is waiving all late fees for driver licenses and registrations until further notice.** Call to make an appointment:

- Delaware City Driver Services: 302-365-8771
 - Delaware City Vehicle Services: 302-365-8770
- Dover Driver Services: 302-744-2703
 - Dover Vehicle Services: 302-744-2568
- Georgetown Driver Services: 302-853-1044
 - Georgetown Vehicle Services: 302-853-1034
- Wilmington Driver Services: 302-434-3209
 - Wilmington Vehicle Services: 302-434-3208

Price Gouging

[Delawareans should report suspected price gouging to the Delaware Department of Justice.](#)

No entity doing business in this state shall engage in price gouging as a result of this public health emergency, which shall mean an excessive price increase of goods or services offered for sale beyond the sale price in the usual course of business.

Consumers should report suspected price gouging to the Delaware Department of Justice's Consumer Protection Unit through a formal complaint ([get the complaint forms here](#)). Contact consumer.protection@delaware.gov or the DOJ's Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 220-5424.

State Employees

The Department of Human Resources' [resource page](#) provides state employees with the latest information regarding policies, practices and procedures related to COVID-19. The safety and well-being of state employees is DHR's first priority. Information on this page is continually updated as new information becomes available. Please be sure to check back often.

State offices will remain open, except that all State of Delaware employees able to telecommute (work from home) are required to telecommute wherever possible, in accordance with [Department of Human Resource's guidance](#). State employees unable to telecommute should report to their normal place of work at the start of their shift.

State employees are encouraged to discuss questions or

concerns with their supervisor or with their agency HR representative.

Arts Organizations

The Delaware Division of the Arts has [a long list of resources for arts organizations, artists, authors, and musicians on their website.](#)

Shop Local From Home

[Find local businesses who are offering online ordering, direct shipping and curbside pickup](#) from the Delaware Tourism Office.